

## Supply and Demand

World wheat production for the 2016/2017 season is estimated at 754.10 million metric tons according to the *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report 566 of 9 June 2017*, world production for 2017/2018 is projected to be 739.53 million metric tons.

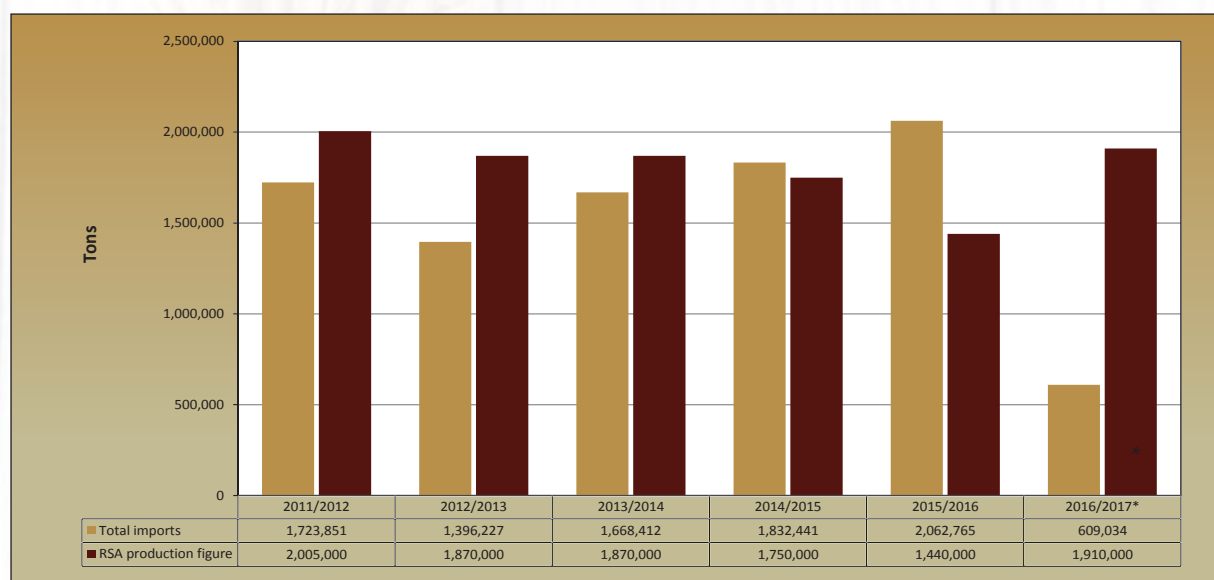
South Africa is a net importer of wheat and relies on imports to supply local demand. Demand for wheat processing (human, animal, and gristing) was fairly stable over the past three seasons, varying 63 116 tons in total. Eight months into the 2016/2017 season this figure stands at 2 069 034 tons, 65.8% of the previous season's figure.

During the 2015/2016 season 2 062 765 tons of wheat were imported for local use. This figure constitutes an almost 13% increase compared to the 2014/2015 season and can be attributed to the severe drought conditions experienced in South Africa during the 2015/2016 season. As for the past several seasons the Russian Federation remains the main origin for wheat imported for use within the RSA, with 956 705 tons imported during 2015/2016. Please see pages 77 to 98 for the quality of the wheat imported during 2015/2016. During the corresponding period, 54 008 tons of wheat from South Africa were exported to countries such as Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana and Lesotho. Wheat exports from South Africa decreased by 80% compared to the previous season.

The amount of wheat imported for local consumption so far during the 2016/2017 marketing season, amounts to 609 034 tons according to SAGIS. This figure includes imports up to 7 July 2017 and represents approximately 38% of the amount of wheat imported at the corresponding date during the previous season.

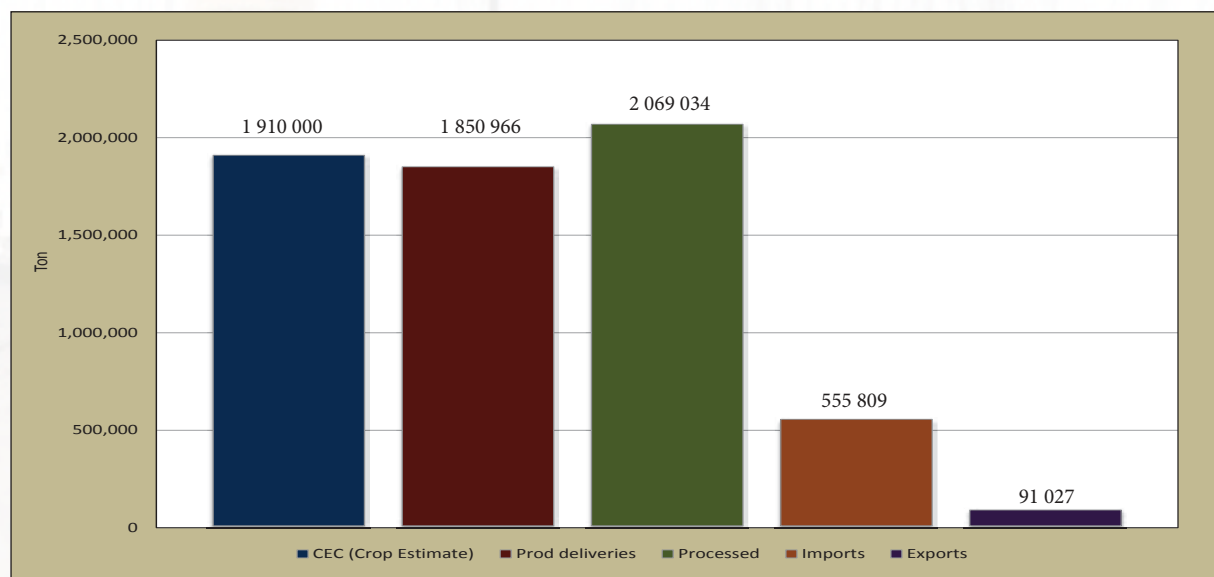
The wheat marketing season commences on the 1st of October every year.

**Graph 5: RSA production figure versus the total import figure over six seasons**



\*2016/2017 season figure includes imports up to 7 July 2017.

**Graph 6: Wheat supply and demand overview 2016/2017 season (Oct - May)**



Figures provided by SAGIS, (Publication date: 2017-06-27)